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Powder Dry at Marine Party

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Last night, Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Cushman Jr. gave their first garden party since he became commandant of the Marine Corps earlier this year.

The party, followed by an evening parade for Marine Corps general officers, active and retired, and their wives, demonstrated Mrs. Cushman's imaginativeness as a hostess.

Instead of using just the east garden as her predecessors had done, she extended the party out into the west gardens directly behind Commandant's House so that guests had more room to congregate and partake of a wider selection of foods.

Separate food tables served such delicacies as lobster, beef roasted on a spit, and Thai saté sticks which you could cook yourself over a hibachi.

'Might Try It'

The latter especially intrigued Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet, wife of the French ambassador, who remarked, "I might try it myself at the embassy sometime."

Mrs. Kosciusko-Morizet told

Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters, the CIA's new deputy director, she was as hopeful for no rain at today's Bastille Day reception as the Marine wives were last night for the Cushman party. "It's only rained twice in the last 20 years, and I hope tomorrow isn't the third," she said.

Noting the tent at the other end of the barracks grounds which has been set up in case of rain to protect the 400 guests, Walters told the French envoy's wife "the most amazing" reception he'd attended was the French Embassy's for President and Mrs. Pompidou. He still wonders where a tent as large as the one he saw was found to house the 2,000 people in attendance.

Gen. Hershey

There from the White House staff were Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, adviser to the President on manpower mobilization, and Mrs. Lucy Winchester, Mrs. Nixon's social secretary, just back from a vacation visit to her Kentucky relatives.

"I was doing a little moonlighting, taking care of the farms; that's my other job,"

quipped Mrs. Winchester.

For Lt. Gen. John R. Chaisson, Marine Corps chief of staff, this was his last garden party on active duty. He retires July 31 and assumes his new position at the Atomic Energy Commission.

On Aug. 1, he becomes assistant AEC director of regula-

tions. He was tempted to retire to his native Maine, but "couldn't resist the challenge," he said. "I'll really have to dig in. I'll not bring anything with me of what I've done in the Marine Corps, except perhaps being a manager."

It is also the last time Chaisson is attending the annual general officers symposium, his fourth, which concludes a week's sessions today. He called the meeting of 60 generals "the most significant" he'd attended because it had "the greatest exchange of ideas." He added it was also Gen. Cushman's first.